

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 09338 240547Z

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ACTION VOE-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INSE-00 /001 W

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R 231550Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 729

UNCLAS MEXICO 9338

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, MX

SUBJECT: MEXICAN IDENTITY DOCUMENTAL FM-13

REF: A) DEPT. COMPUTER MESSAGE OCT. 16

B) STATE 200658 AUG. 22

1. EMBASSY CONCERNED THAT QUESTIONS CONTAINED REF A BEING RAISED AT THIS LATE DATE. WE UNDESTOOD FROM REF B THAT DEPT. CONCURRED THAT FM-13 NOT A PASSPORT OR TRAVEL DOCUMENT FOR VISA PURPOSES IN VIEW OFFICIAL POSITION TO THIS EFFECT TAKEN BY GOM IN ITS NOTE OF JULY 7 TO EMBASSY. REF B STATED DEPT. SO INFORMING POSTS BY AIRGRAM AS WELL AS INS/CO. ONLY QUESTION REMAINING WAS TIMING, I.E., EFFECTIVE DATE ON WHICH POSTS IN MEXICO WOULD STOP ACCEPTING FM-13S FOR VISA PURPOSES. EMBASSY SO INFORMED CONSTITUTUENT POSTS.

2. WHEN SEVERAL POSTS INDICATED PROBLEMS WOULD ARISE FROM SEPTEMBER TERMINATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF FM-13S, PARTICULARLY IN STUDENT CASES, EMBASSY, WITH VO'S CONCURRENCE, ADVISED POSTS TERMINATION DATE POSTPONED TO OCT. 1. SUBSEQUENTLY, AGAIN WITH VO'S CONCURRENCE, DATE POSTPONED TO NOV. 1 TO PERMIT POSTS TO GIVE PUBLICITY TO THIS CHANGE. EMBASSY PROVIDED POSTS WITH SUGGESTED LANGUAGE AND POSTS HAVE BEEN PUBLICIZING NOV. 1 DATE. ACCORDINGLY, WE URGE THAT NO FURTHER DELAY OCCUR IN IMPLEMENTING THIS DECISION.

3. WE SPOKE YESTERDAY WITH FONOFF AND WERE INFORMED THAT GOM WILL CONTINUE ACCEPT THERI RETURNING CITIZENS BEARING ONLY FM-13. FURTHER, FONOFF IMPLIED, BUT WOULD NOT CATEGORICALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 MEXICO 09338 240547Z

STATED, THAT MEXICAN CITIZENS DESIRING TO IMMIGRATE TO ANOTHER

COUNTRY MUST POSSESS A FEDERAL PASSPORT. IN ADDITION, FONOFF STATED THAT WHILE IT IS DESIRABLE THAT INTENDING VISITORS HAVE FEDERAL PASSPORTS THEY MAY, IN EMERGENCY CASES, USE A PROVSIONAL STATE PASSPORT.

4. FONOFF AGREED TO PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCE OF ABOVE CONCERNING RETURNING CITIZENS UPON RECEIPT OF WRITTEN REQUEST FROM EMBASSY. NOTE BEING DRAFTED FOR DELIVERY TO FONOFF.

5. WE REALIZE FONOFF NOTE OF JULY 7, 1975, IS AMBIGUOUS AND SEEMS TO IMPLY THAT FEDERAL PASSPORT MUST BE USED BY VISITORS AS WELL AS IMMIGRANTS. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS REALLY FONOFF POSITION. IN ANY EVENT, WE VIEW THE FEDERAL VS. STATE PASSPORT QUESTION AS A BASICALLY SEPARATE, THOUGH RELATED, ISSUE THAT NEED NOT BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE FM-13 ISSUE.

6. SUBJECT TO A CONVICTION OF THE VIEWS OF THE CONSTITUENT POSTS WHICH ALREADY INITIATED WE CONTEMPLATE RECOMMENDING TO DEPT. THAT POSTS BE INSTRUCTED TO ACCEPT ONLY FEDERAL PASSPORTS FOR INTENDING IMMIGRANTS IN VIEW OF FONOFF NOTE OF JULY 7 AND FACT THAT MOST STATE PASSPORTS ARE SPECIFICALLY LIMITED BY THEIR TERMS FOR TOURISM. EMBASSY'S PRESENT VIEW IS THAT THIS WOULD NOT PLACE AN INORDINATE BURDEN ON INTENDING IMMIGRANTS, LARGE NUMBERS OF WHOM ARE IN THE U.S. WHERE THEY CAN OBTAIN FEDERAL PASSPORTS AT NEAREST MEXICAN CONSULATE. THOSE IN MEXICO CAN OBTAIN THEM IN MEXICO CITY OR AT BRANCH OFFICE IN MONTERREY. OUR RECOMMENDATION ON THIS SUBJECT WILL BE FORTHCOMING SHORTLY.  
BRANDIN

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